

CLAIMS

1. A method to create within a computer system, an association between the appearance of a token and one or more stored files, comprising the steps of:

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measuring said appearance of said token;

creating a token identity from the obtained measurement;

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storing said electronic identity in an identity store; and

associating said one or more stored files with said token identity.

2. A method to create within a computer system, an association between the appearance a token and information of the location of one or more files, comprising the steps of:

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measuring said appearance of said token;

creating a token identity from the obtained measurement; and

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storing said electronic identity in an identity store; and

associating said token identity with said information of the location of one or more files.

3. A method to retrieve one or more stored files within a computer system, by use of a stored token identity created from measuring the appearance of a token, where said token identity is associated with said one or more stored files, comprising the steps of:

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creating a subsequent identity for said token by measuring said appearance again;

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searching for a match for said subsequent identity with said token identity; and

upon the location of a match, retrieving said one or more stored files which are associated with said stored token identity.

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4. A method to create within a computer system, an association between the appearance of a token and one or more stored files for the purpose of retrieving and presenting said one or more stored files, comprising the steps of:

5 measuring said appearance of said token;

creating a token identity from the obtained measurement;

storing said token identity in an identity store;

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associating within said computer system, said stored file with said token identity;

subsequently measuring said appearance of said token;

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creating a subsequent identity for said token using subsequent measurement data obtained from said subsequent measurement;

searching in said identity store for a match with said subsequent identity;

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upon the location of a match, retrieving said one or more stored files; and

presenting said retrieved file to a user.

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5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein said appearance of said token is the size and/or shape and/or colour of said token.

6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein said token identity is created from measurements of said appearance and one or more other physical characteristics of said token.

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7. A method according claim 6, wherein a measurement of the weight of said token is used in the creation of said token identity.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein measurement data of said appearance and/or one or more other physical characteristics of is prioritised in the creation of said token identity, by ascribing to each a value relative to each other.

9. Apparatus to create within a computer system, an association between the appearance a token and one or more stored files, comprising:

5 measuring means by which said appearance of said token can be measured;

processing means to create a token identity from measurement; data obtained by said measuring means;

0 an identity store to store said token identity;

a file store to store said one or more files; and

means to associate said token identity and said files.

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10. Apparatus to create within a computer system, an association between the appearance a token and information of the location of one or more files, comprising:

measuring means by which the appearance of said token is measured;

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processing means to create a token identity from measurement data obtained by said measuring means;

an identity store to store said token identity;

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a location information store to store said file location information; and

means to associate said token identity and said file location information.

- 0 11. Apparatus to retrieve within a computer system, one or more stored files by use of a token identity created from measuring the appearance of a token, where said token identity is associated with said one or more stored files, comprising:

5 measuring means by which said appearance of said token is measured;

means to create a subsequent identity for said token from measurement data obtained from said measuring means;

means to search for a match for said subsequent identity with said token identity; and

means to retrieve said one or more stored files, based on the identification of a match or a partial match between said subsequent identity and said token identity.

12. Apparatus to create within a computer system, an association between a token and a stored file for the purpose of retrieving and presenting said stored file, comprising:

measuring means by which the appearance of said token is measured on the first and subsequent occasions;

processing means to create a token identity and a subsequent identity from measurement data obtained from said measuring means;

an identity store to store said token identity;

a file store to store said files;

means to associate said token identity and said files;

searching means to find a match with said subsequent identity in said identity store;

means to retrieve files associated with said token identity, based on the identification of a match or a partial match between said subsequent identity and said token identity; and

presentation means by which said retrieved files are presented to a user

13. Apparatus according to any of claims 9 to 12, wherein said processing means performs the task or tasks of:

creating a token identity and/or subsequent identity; and

associating said token identity with said one or more files; and/or

searching to find a match with said subsequent identity; and/or

retrieving said one or more files.

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14. Apparatus according to any of claims 9 to 13, further including means to control the measuring environment.

15. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said control means is a light source.

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16. Apparatus according to any of claims 9 to 15 taking a unitary form.